



Lead Line

A Newsletter for Childhood
Lead Poisoning Prevention Professionals



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

www.dph.state.ct.us

In This Issue

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DPH CLPPP Childhood Lead Elimination Plan

The DPH submitted its childhood lead elimination plan to the CDC on August 1, 2004. This came about as the result of the directive the CDC placed upon its award receiving states to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by the year 2010. To accomplish this task, leaders in their fields were asked to bring their talents and commitment of caring for Connecticut's children to join the Lead Elimination Task Force so that Connecticut may succeed in eliminating one of the most common, yet preventable, pediatric diseases in Connecticut.

As reported in the February edition of *LeadLine*, the Task Force convened in February. Since then, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committee members have been meeting regularly to develop a comprehensive plan for the elimination of childhood lead poisoning in Connecticut over the next six years. The group will reconvene in September to begin implementation of the elimination plan's many recommendations.

The CT lead elimination plan will be printed and distributed later this fall. Look for more details in future editions of *LeadLine* and in our monthly *LeadLine News Brief*.

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CLPPP Surveillance System Goes Live

CLPPP has a new data manager, Justin Peng, who came on board in April 2004. Justin worked at the Hispanic Health Council before joining the Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. He has a MPH degree from the University of Connecticut.

The CT DPH has maintained a blood lead surveillance system since 1994. A new enhanced surveillance system known as the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program system (or "CLPPP" system) will be implemented in the fall of 2004. The development of this system resulted from an active three-state consortium including Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Notable features of the new system include:

- Case-based meaning that each child uniquely defines a "case" with associated lab tests, address and other demographic information, and sibling information.
- Data about the child can be linked to data about environmental inspections and abatement.
- Data quality, including the capacity to match client data with imported birth data, and algorithms that improve the accuracy of demographic information. These improvements make it possible to track children by birth cohort.
- Client records matched with Medicaid enrollment data; this capacity significantly reduces the effort that has been historically required to produce data files of Medicaid enrollees who were screened (or not) for lead poisoning.

DPH is exploring the possibility of making the new CLPPP system available in a web-based format so that local health departments can enter case management information and DPH will be able to view that data. When the system is fully implemented, DPH will start entering encounter information as reported from local health departments and information related to environmental investigations. The new CLPPP system will greatly enhance the surveillance of screening and case management for lead poisoning in Connecticut.



2004 Keep It Clean (KIC) Campaign

The DPH Lead Environmental Management Unit (LEMU) has continued to work with a select group (nine) of local health department contacts to implement the Keep It Clean (KIC) training program at participating paint and hardware retail stores. This training program was undertaken to initiate a pilot program in which additional training in lead safe work practices is provided to participating hardware store employees by trained local health personnel. To date eleven training sessions have been completed. Follow up retesting of the trained store employees is presently ongoing and will be completed later this summer. The primary focus of this training is to enable store employees to assist in educating the public on correct ways to work in a lead safe manner when renovating their home. Testing of those individuals on their technical knowledge of lead will indicate if the KIC message—**Working Safely with Lead-Based Paint**—is being disseminated to the public.

Data collected from testing of the target group will be evaluated by Dr. Maureen Mulroy of the University of Connecticut (UConn), in conjunction with Mary Margaret Gaudio of the UConn Cooperative Extension Service and Joan Bothell, Director of the New England Lead Coordinating Committee. Results of the evaluation should assist in guiding future KIC campaign direction.

The CT KIC campaign recently received some national exposure at the **2004 National Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference**. Mark Aschenbach, Environmental Sanitarian 2, LEMU, attended the conference which was held June 23-25 in Orlando, Florida and presented a summary of The CT Keep It Clean program to 35 attendees. Mr. Aschenbach, as part of the Health Education and Community Outreach session of the conference, distributed packets of educational materials in addition to various promotional items, which included carpenter's pencils and KIC painter's caps. Both the KIC video and the CT DPH developed training video (The 5 Keys to Lead Safety) were presented to the audience. Feedback from the session attendees was positive with many questions asked and requests made for obtaining copies of the two videos.

One hundred thirty-four (134) paint and retail hardware stores are participating in this year's CT KIC campaign.



Keep It Clean—Nine Participating Local Health Departments

Eastern Highlands Health District
Farmington Valley Health District
Manchester Lead Abatement Project
New Haven Health Department
New London Health Department
Northeast Health District
West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District
Windsor Health Department
Uncas Health District

West Haven Health Department *Keep It Clean* Finale

On July 24, 2004, the West Haven Health Department held an event for the public at Gebauer's Hardware Store at 11 Wagner Place, West Haven for two purposes. One was to mark the end of this year's *Keep It Clean* program. The other, more important purpose, was to stress that *Keeping it Clean* is a practice to be carried out year round. Announcements for the event appeared in the West Haven Voice and New Haven Register.

Educational literature, promotional items, and coupons for free hot dogs and soda were distributed to persons stopping by to talk to Robert Jase, CLPPP, and Mindy Anduss, representing the health department. There was also a free raffle held for two prizes - buckets containing additional literature, painting supplies and tools. The event was well attended.

East Hartford Launches Lead Reduction Awareness Program

The Town of East Hartford has begun an important effort to prevent childhood lead poisoning using grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This initiative is intended to carry out activities associated with lead-based paint hazard control in pre-1978 housing where low income families with children under age 6 reside. East Hartford's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program, known as P.U.R.P.L.E. (Partners United to Reduce and Prevent Lead Exposure), offers assistance to eligible owners of 1 - 4 unit properties to address lead hazards and works with the community to increase awareness of lead poisoning prevention.



For more information, please call the Lead Paint Hazard Control Office at 291-7459.

NELCC Defines its Mission

The New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC) recently adopted the following mission statement:

The New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC) is a regional consortium of state agencies that are working to eliminate lead poisoning, especially in children, by 2010. NELCC develops regional projects and promotes the exchange of information, ideas, materials, and programs among its member agencies, federal agencies, and other organizations working to eliminate lead poisoning throughout New England.

NELCC is now administered by the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative at the University of Connecticut.

For more information about NELCC, send an email to: nelcc@uconn.edu

HUD Funded Lead in Soil Study Conducted in New London

The City of New London, through the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, has partnered with Research Triangle Institute (RTI) of North Carolina in conducting a validation study of a previously established protocol testing soil-lead levels in the field. RTI originally established this protocol with HUD funding at two North Carolina sites. New London is one of approximately twelve sites that will partake in this study nationwide.

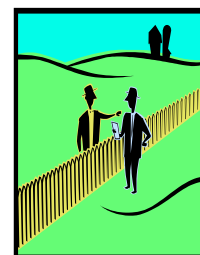
This validation study incorporates TSCA Section 403 lead soil levels (400 mg/kg in bare play areas and 1,200 mg/kg average for bare soil in the rest of the yard) analyzed by XRF measurement of soil homogenized in place, with more accurate XRF analysis of dried and sieved samples performed as needed. Niton Corporation manufactures the XRF instrumentation utilized in this study.

The site requirements for properties to partake in this study are as follows:

- Wood-framed dwelling built prior to 1950, known or suspected to be painted with lead-based paint,
- Front and/or back yard of at least 900 square feet each,
- Yard should contain a distinct bare area (preferably a play area of at least 9 square feet).

If the EPA and other overseeing regulatory bodies approve this methodology, measuring residential soil for lead in the field will be more cost effective in both sampling costs and the cost of time for laboratory analysis.

A total of six properties were selected, the owner's of which are all non-profit organizations that received the properties through the City to rehabilitate and sell to low-to-moderate income families. Many of the properties partaking in the study will receive funding through the Lead Hazard Reduction Program to make them lead safe prior to occupancy. This funding will address the lead in soil hazards identified as well as other lead hazards present in and on the structure. The results of the study are expected to be available in the next edition of *LeadLine*.



***LeadLine* is a publication of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.**

Commissioner, J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H.

Bureau of Community Health, Ardell Wilson, DDS, MPH, Bureau Chief

Division of Health Education, Management, and Surveillance, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Renée Coleman-Mitchell, MPH, Division Director

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Lead Elimination Action Program LEAPS to Action

The Lead Elimination Action Program (LEAP) is a two-year grant that kicked-off in June 2003. Funded by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and administered by the ACCESS Agency in Willimantic, the primary mission is to help low-income families and property owners in northeastern Connecticut learn how to prevent lead poisoning in their homes through lead-safe repairs and an educational program. In addition to providing a funding source, project management services, and relocation services, the program acts in an advisory capacity to help homeowners make their property a lead safe environment.

Low-income property owners are eligible to receive funding for 100% of the LEAP project costs up to the funding caps. Owners of investment properties are required to contribute 25% of the project costs and LEAP contributes 75% up to the unit caps. The grant is based on a deferred loan and forgiven after 3 years.

LEAP is finding continued success with its program and clients. Currently, seven units have been completed, thirteen units are under contract, and nine applications are pending with three cases of elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs). The program staff is currently awaiting additional on seventeen pending applications.

LEAP is hoping to increase its success and client base by applying to a new grant that would allow service to ninety total units.

If you wish to receive more information or apply to our program, please call (860) 450-7173 or email leap@accessagency.org

New Haven Keeps the Lead Safe Message Going Strong All Summer Long

On Sunday, June 6th, the New Haven Health Department hosted its fourth-annual lead safety picnic in the Carousel Pavilion at New Haven's Lighthouse Park. Despite gray skies, the Pavilion was brightened by an array of painted faces and brilliantly dyed "Lead Free" tees. The event drew an estimated 350 parents and children from the surrounding communities to learn about lead safety and prevention.

Participants were greeted by staff members who offered them an overview of activities and a "Let's Bag Lead" bag (donated by local organizations) with informational pamphlets and giveaways. Parents were encouraged to visit the New Haven Health Department's booth while their children painted pots and planted seedlings, enjoyed puppet and magic shows, utilized hand washing stations, tie-dyed tees, and snacked on picnic favorites. Together, families learned about lead safety through key messages incorporated in the entertainment and literature available in both English and Spanish. Key messages included proper hand washing, attention to dust removal and maintenance of painted surfaces in the home, awareness of lead in soil outside the home and lead testing information.

The overall success of the fourth annual event at Lighthouse Park demonstrated the sustainability of community outreach programs from year to year. The event created a forum for many of New Haven's most at-risk families to learn about lead for the first time and receive information on screening and prevention. A story highlighting the event and lead safety was featured in Saturday's *New Haven Register*. It was evident that this activity not only directly reached at-risk families, but created an opportunity to start conversations about how to improve community health, which can be passed on from family to family, and friend to friend.

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE: October 5, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., CLPPP Semi-Annual Meeting. Location and further details will be emailed via the CLPPP List Serve distribution. Stay tuned!

HUSKY EVENTS, INFORMATION, AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Need help or information regarding the HUSKY program for your clients? Contact: Sandy Prisk, HUSKY Outreach Program, 94 West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040; 860-646-1222 ext. 2539; Sprisk@echh.org

If you have any upcoming events, trainings, or other news about your program that you would like to publicize, contact Ana Chambers at: Ana.Chambers@po.state.ct.us or 860-509-7277.